

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of June 4, 2003, claims 1-16 were rejected.

In response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended and claims 6 and 15 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 6-7, 8-9, 11 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsurao et al. (WO 99/05191). The Examiner also has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kuzuo et al (JP 2000-215917). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 8 recite a gel electrolyte including a copolymer as a main component which contains vinylidene fluoride as a monomer unit, wherein said copolymer includes hexafluoropropylene as the monomer unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Katsurao nor Kuzuro teach a copolymer includes hexafluoropropylene as a monomer unit. Katsurao discloses a solid polymer electrolyte formed from a crosslinked vinylidene fluoride copolymer. Kuzuro discloses a polymer electrolyte by providing a polymer composition formed of a reacting vinylidene fluoride-based polymer and a carboxyl group and/or an epoxy group, and at least one vinyl group. (Kuzuro abstract). None of the cited references disclose or even suggest a copolymer to include a hexafluoropropylene as a monomer unit which is desirable to react with the copolymer. (Spec. page 11) Thus, Katsurao and Kuzuro do not anticipate claims 1 and 8 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the applied references as suggested by the Examiner.

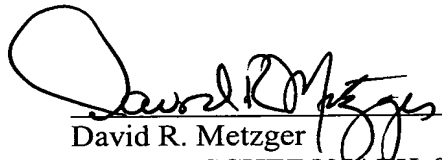
Claims 2-5, 7, 9-14 and 16 all depend directly from claims 1 and 8 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit these rejections have been overcome and request that they be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims 1-5, 7, 8-14 and 16 are patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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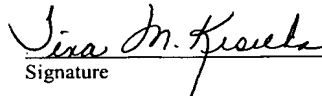
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